

Steller sea lion and northern fur seal, only a small amount is authorized through this IHA. The anticipated impacts from the project are similar to those previously analyzed. The IHA includes the same monitoring, and reporting measures as the 2024 IHA and the shutdown zones have been revised to address the new Level A harassment isopleths calculated from the 2024 technical guidance. In conclusion, there is no new information suggesting that our analysis or findings should change.

Based on the information contained here and in the referenced documents, NMFS has determined the following: (1) the required mitigation measures will affect the least practicable impact on marine mammal species or stocks and their habitat; (2) the authorized takes will have a negligible impact on the affected marine mammal species or stocks; (3) the authorized takes represent small numbers of marine mammals relative to the affected stock abundances; (4) USAF's activities will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on taking for subsistence purposes as no relevant subsistence uses of marine mammals are implicated by this action, and (5) appropriate monitoring and reporting requirements are included.

#### Endangered Species Act (ESA)

There are four marine mammal species (western Distinct Population Segment (DPS) Steller sea lion, fin whale (northeast Pacific), humpback whale (Mexico—North Pacific and western North Pacific), and sperm whale (North Pacific)) with confirmed occurrence in the project area that are listed as endangered under the ESA. The NMFS Alaska Regional Office issued a Biological Opinion under Section 7 of the ESA on the issuance of an IHA to USAF under section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA by NMFS Office of Protected Resources. The Biological Opinion concluded that the action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the listed species and is not likely to destroy or adversely modify critical habitat.

#### National Environmental Policy Act

To comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and NOAA Administrative Order (NAO) 216-6A, NMFS must review our proposed action (*i.e.*, the issuance of an IHA) with respect to potential impacts on the human environment.

This action is consistent with categories of activities identified in Categorical Exclusion B4 (IHAs with no anticipated serious injury or mortality) of the Companion Manual for NAO 216-

6A, which do not individually or cumulatively have the potential for significant impacts on the quality of the human environment and for which we have not identified any extraordinary circumstances that would preclude this categorical exclusion. Accordingly, NMFS has determined that the issuance of the IHA qualifies to be categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

#### Authorization

NMFS has issued an IHA to USAF for the potential harassment of small numbers of 12 marine mammal species incidental to conducting the EAS Fuel Pier Repair in Alcan Harbor on Shemya Island, Alaska that includes the previously explained mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements.

Dated: April 22, 2025.

**Catherine Marzin,**

*Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XE430]

#### Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Year 1 of the U.S. Navy Maintenance and Pile Replacement Project in Puget Sound, Washington

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice; issuance of incidental harassment authorization.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS has received a request from the United States Navy for the re-issuance of a previously issued incidental harassment authorization (IHA) with the only change being effective dates. The initial IHA authorized take of 10 species of marine mammals, by Level A and Level B harassment, incidental to construction associated with the Navy's Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest (NAVFAC) Northwest Marine Structure Program (MPR) project in Puget Sound, Washington. The project has been delayed and none of the work covered in the initial IHA has been conducted. The scope of the activities and anticipated effects remain the same, authorized take numbers are not changed, and the required mitigation, monitoring, and reporting remains the

same as included in the initial IHA. NMFS is, therefore, issuing a second identical IHA to cover the incidental take analyzed and authorized in the initial IHA.

**DATES:** This authorization is effective from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. The initial IHA was effective from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. The Navy has requested re-issuance with new effective dates of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

**ADDRESSES:** An electronic copy of the final 2024 IHA previously issued to the Navy, the Navy's application, and the **Federal Register** notices proposing and issuing the initial IHA may be obtained by visiting <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/incidental-take-authorizations-construction-activities>. In case of problems accessing these documents, please call the contact listed below (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kate Fleming, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427-8401.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

Sections 101(a)(5)(D) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) direct the Secretary of Commerce (as delegated to NMFS) to allow, upon request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking of small numbers of marine mammals by U.S. citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region if certain findings are made and either regulations are issued or, if the taking is limited to harassment, a notice of a proposed authorization is provided to the public for review.

An authorization for incidental takings shall be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s), will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses (where relevant), and if the permissible methods of taking and requirements pertaining to the mitigation, monitoring and reporting of such takings are set forth.

NMFS has defined "negligible impact" in 50 CFR 216.103 as an impact resulting from the specified activity that cannot be reasonably expected to, and is not reasonably likely to, adversely affect the species or stock through effects on annual rates of recruitment or survival.

The MMPA states that the term "take" means to harass, hunt, capture, kill or

attempt to harass, hunt, capture, or kill any marine mammal.

Except with respect to certain activities not pertinent here, the MMPA defines “harassment” as any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance which (i) has the potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild (Level A harassment); or (ii) has the potential to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering (Level B harassment).

### Summary of Request

On June 3, 2024, NMFS published final notice of our issuance of two consecutive 1-year IHAs authorizing take of marine mammals incidental to the Navy NW MPR project in Puget Sound, Washington (89 FR 47539). The effective dates of the Year 1 IHA were July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. On June 25, 2024, the Navy informed NMFS that the Year 1 project was delayed. None of the work identified in the initial IHA (e.g., pile driving and removal) would occur due to a combination of funding and design issues and the need for additional consultation under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. On November 14, 2024, the Navy submitted a request that we reissue an identical IHA that would be effective from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, in order to conduct the construction work that was analyzed and authorized through the previously issued IHA. Therefore, re-issuance of the IHA is appropriate.

### Summary of Specified Activity and Anticipated Impacts

The planned activities (including mitigation, monitoring, and reporting), authorized incidental take, and anticipated impacts on the affected stocks are the same as those analyzed and authorized through the previously issued IHA.

The purpose of the Navy’s construction project is to maintain existing wharfs and piers that are needed to ensure continuance of necessary missions at three naval installations in Puget Sound, Washington. The location, timing, and nature of the activities, including the types of equipment planned for use, are within scope of those described in the initial IHA. The mitigation and monitoring are also as prescribed in the initial IHA.

Species that are expected to be taken by the planned activity include gray whale (*Eschrichtius robustus*),

humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), minke whale (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*), killer whale (*Orcinus orca*), Dall’s porpoise (*Phocoenoides dalli*), harbor porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*), California sea lion (*Zalophus californianus*), Steller sea lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*), harbor seal (*Phoca vitulina*), northern elephant seal (*Mirovunga angustirostris*). A description of the methods and inputs used to estimate take anticipated to occur and, ultimately, the take that was authorized is found in the previous documents referenced above. The data inputs and methods of estimating take are identical to those used in the initial IHA. NMFS has reviewed recent Stock Assessment Reports, information on relevant Unusual Mortality Events, and recent scientific literature, and determined that no new information affects our original analysis of impacts or take estimate under the initial IHA.

We refer to the documents related to the previously issued IHA, which include the **Federal Register** notice of the issuance of the initial 2024 IHA for the Navy’s construction work (89 FR 47539), the Navy’s application, the **Federal Register** notice of the proposed IHA (89 FR 25580), and all associated references and documents.

### Determinations

The Navy will conduct activities as analyzed in the initial 2024 IHA. As described above, the number of authorized takes of the same species and stocks of marine mammals are identical to the numbers that were found to meet the negligible impact and small numbers standards and authorized under the initial IHA and no new information has emerged that would change those findings. The re-issued 2025 IHA includes identical required mitigation, monitoring, and reporting measures as the initial IHA, and there is no new information suggesting that our analysis or findings should change.

Based on the information contained here and in the referenced documents, NMFS has determined the following: (1) the required mitigation measures will effect the least practicable impact on marine mammal species or stocks and their habitat; (2) the authorized takes will have a negligible impact on the affected marine mammal species or stocks; (3) the authorized takes represent small numbers of marine mammals relative to the affected stock abundances; and (4) the Navy’s activities will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on taking for subsistence purposes as no relevant subsistence uses of marine mammals are implicated by this action.

### National Environmental Policy Act

To comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and NOAA Administrative Order (NAO) 216–6A, NMFS must review our proposed action with respect to environmental consequences on the human environment.

Accordingly, NMFS has determined that the issuance of the IHA qualifies to be categorically excluded from further NEPA review. This action is consistent with categories of activities identified in CE B4 of the Companion Manual for NAO 216–6A, which do not individually or cumulatively have the potential for significant impacts on the quality of the human environment and for which we have not identified any extraordinary circumstances that would preclude this categorical exclusion.

### Endangered Species Act

Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) requires that each Federal agency insure that any action it authorizes, funds, or carries out is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat. To ensure ESA compliance for the issuance of IHAs, NMFS consults internally whenever we propose to authorize take for endangered or threatened species, in this case with the West Coast Regional Office (WCRO).

NMFS is authorizing take of southern resident killer whale, as well as two distinct population segments of humpback whale (Central American/Southern Mexico-California-Oregon-Washington and Mainland Mexico-California-Oregon-Washington), which are listed under the ESA.

The NMFS WCRO issued a Biological Opinion under section 7 of the ESA on the issuance of an IHA to the Navy under section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA by NMFS Office of Protected Resources. The biological opinion concluded that the action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the listed species. WCRO confirmed that NMFS’ current action remains covered by the programmatic Biological Opinion (WCRO–2016–00018) completed for the issuance of regulations preceding the IHA upon which the reissued IHA is based (83 FR 9366, March 5, 2018), and that re-initiation of the consultation is not required.

### Authorization

NMFS has issued an IHA to the Navy for in-water construction activities

associated with the specified activity from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. All previously described mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements from the initial 2024 IHA are incorporated.

Dated: April 22, 2025.

**Catherine Marzin,**

*Acting Director Office of Protected Resources,  
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648–XE862]

**Fisheries of the Gulf of America; Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR); Public Meeting**

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of SEDAR 98 Assessment Webinar II for Gulf of America Red Snapper.

**SUMMARY:** The SEDAR 98 assessment process for Gulf of America red snapper will consist of a Data Workshop, a series of assessment webinars, and a Review Workshop. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

**DATES:** The SEDAR 98 Assessment Webinar II will be held May 30, 2025, from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m., Eastern Time.

**ADDRESSES:**

*Meeting address:* The meeting will be held via webinar. The webinar is open to members of the public. Those interested in participating should contact Julie A. Neer at SEDAR (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) to request an invitation providing webinar access information. Please request webinar invitations at least 24 hours in advance of each webinar.

*SEDAR address:* 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston, SC 29405.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Julie A. Neer, SEDAR Coordinator; (843) 571–4366; email: [Julie.neer@safmc.net](mailto:Julie.neer@safmc.net).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Gulf, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils, in conjunction with NMFS and the Atlantic and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions have implemented the Southeast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR) process, a multi-step method for determining the status of fish stocks in the Southeast Region. SEDAR is a multi-

step process including: (1) Data Workshop, (2) a series of assessment webinars, and (3) A Review Workshop. The product of the Data Workshop is a report that compiles and evaluates potential datasets and recommends which datasets are appropriate for assessment analyses. The assessment webinars produce a report that describes the fisheries, evaluates the status of the stock, estimates biological benchmarks, projects future population conditions, and recommends research and monitoring needs. The product of the Review Workshop is an Assessment Summary documenting panel opinions regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the stock assessment and input data. Participants for SEDAR Workshops are appointed by the Gulf, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils and NMFS Southeast Regional Office, HMS Management Division, and Southeast Fisheries Science Center. Participants include data collectors and database managers; stock assessment scientists, biologists, and researchers; constituency representatives including fishermen, environmentalists, and NGO's; International experts; and staff of Councils, Commissions, and state and federal agencies.

The items of discussion during the Assessment Webinar II are as follows:

Participants will review the data recommendations and the assessment modelling work to date.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the intent to take final action to address the emergency.

On January 20, 2025, President Trump issued Executive Order 14172 to rename the Gulf of Mexico as the Gulf of America. Any reference to Gulf of America red snapper in SEDAR reports and other documents refers to the same species of red snapper listed in 50 CFR part 622, Appendix A, Table I (Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish).

**Special Accommodations**

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 business days prior to each workshop.

**Note:** The times and sequence specified in this agenda are subject to change.

*Authority:* 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: April 22, 2025.

**Rey Israel Marquez,**

*Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency**

[RTID 0648–XE829]

**Fisheries of the U.S. Caribbean; Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR); Public Meeting**

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of SEDAR 84 U.S. Caribbean Yellowtail Snapper and Stoplight Parrotfish Review Workshop.

**SUMMARY:** The SEDAR 84 assessment process of U.S. Caribbean Yellowtail Snapper and Stoplight Parrotfish will consist of a Data Workshop, a series of assessment webinars, and a Review Workshop. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

**DATES:** The SEDAR 84 Review Workshop will be held from 8:30 a.m. EST on July 15, 2025, until 2 p.m. EST July 18, 2025. The established times may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the timely completion of discussion relevant to the assessment process. Such adjustments may result in the meeting being extended from or completed prior to the time established by this notice.

**ADDRESSES:**

*Meeting address:* The SEDAR 84 Review Workshop will be held at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Fort Lauderdale, 1100 SE 17th Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316.

*SEDAR address:* 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston, SC 29405.

The meeting will be livestreamed and registration for the livestream is available by contacting the SEDAR coordinator via email at [Emily.Ott@safmc.net](mailto:Emily.Ott@safmc.net).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Emily L. Ott, SEDAR Coordinator; (937) 479–6171; email: [Emily.Ott@safmc.net](mailto:Emily.Ott@safmc.net).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Gulf, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils, in conjunction with NMFS and the Atlantic and Gulf